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Request for inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-third session
Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Letter dated 14 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On instructions from my Government, and in conformity with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request you to include in the agenda for the present session of the General Assembly an additional item entitled "The armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo". Please find annexed hereto an explanatory memorandum.

My Government would greatly appreciate it if this item could be debated in plenary, without being referred to a Main Committee.

I should be grateful to you for your action in response to this request.

(Signed) André Mwamba **Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Explanatory memorandum

On 2 August 1998, the coalition troops of Rwanda and Uganda embarked upon an invasion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This blatant aggression, violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a member country of the United Nations, had the immediate effect of sowing death and devastation throughout Congolese territory.

Rwanda and Uganda have committed and continue to commit serious violations of international law: acts of terrorism, violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State Member of the United Nations, violation of the rules and basic principles of international humanitarian law, mass violations of the fundamental rights of the person and many other outrages such as rape of nuns, forced labour at Mbanza-ngungu and assassinations at Kasika.

Rwanda and Uganda, aggressor countries, have succeeded in suffocating the towns and regions in the conflict zones, *inter alia* by cutting off their supply of essential products and basic foodstuffs.

These countries have also deprived the capital, Kinshasa, of its water and electricity supply. The harmful consequences for the population included acute difficulty in access to drinking water, which is basic to survival, leading to the start of an epidemic, and an inadequate supply of electricity which created a problem for the running of the hospitals, most of which are not equipped with generators. This last factor has led to many deaths of innocent victims, most of them newborn babies in incubators.

Another important consequence has been substantial material damage and the destruction of basic infrastructures, which were among the primary targets of these two aggressor countries. This has affected the processes of democratization, economic recovery and national reconstruction.

In acting as it has done, the Rwandan-Ugandan coalition has thus faced the international community, and the programme, with a major new challenge which of course involves a cessation of the hostilities, the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying Rwandan and Ugandan troops, the preservation of innocent human lives and the need to avoid continuing to inflict pointless and expensive material damage.

The international community is called upon to take all measures capable of restoring peace and security, which are seriously threatened in the Central African region by the aggression of which the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a victim. The political and economic destabilization of the Congo would have adverse effects which would compromise peace throughout the region for a long time.

Faced with this unjust aggression of which it is the expiatory victim, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a Member of the United Nations, urges the world Organization to play to the full its role as the guarantor of international peace and security, and to issue a strong condemnation of Rwanda and Uganda in order on the one hand to thwart the irredentist designs of these two countries and on the other hand to put an end to the cultures of impunity and genocide that these two countries are spreading throughout Central Africa.